

Wednesday, 22 November 2023

PRESENT: Councillor H.A.L. Evans (Cabinet Member)

The following Officers were in attendance:

M. Bull, Economic Development Funding & Business Manager

M. E. Pemberton, Rural Programme Co-ordinator

H. Barrett, Project & Funding Co-ordinator

E. Bryer, Democratic Services Officer

Resources Conference Room, County Hall, Carmarthen. SA31 1JP. - 1.30 - 1.40 pm

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DECISION RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19TH OCTOBER, 2023

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on the 19th October, 2023 be signed as a correct record.

3. RURAL INNOVATION FUND

The Cabinet Member considered five applications received for financial assistance under the Rural Innovation Fund, which formed part of the Rural Anchor within the Communities and Place Intervention of Carmarthenshire's Shared Prosperity Fund.

It was noted the applications had been assessed against the fund's criteria by both an officer panel and the Rural Innovation Fund and Sustainable Communities Assessment Panel, being part of the wider Regeneration Partnership, prior to their submission to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism for consideration.

RESOLVED

3.1 that the following applications submitted for funding from the Rural Innovation Fund be approved subject to the usual terms and conditions and those specified within the report:

Applicant	Awarded
Carmarthenshire Federation of Young Farmers (SPF-RIF-17)	£44,620
Heart of Wales LGBTQ+ (SPF-RIF-18)	£35,106

3.2 that the following applications submitted for funding from the Rural Innovation Fund be not supported:

Applicant	Reason not supported
Living Pictures (SPF-RIF-19)	Failed to score the minimum weighted score required as the level of innovation was not clearly articulated, and the application did not sufficiently evidence local need.
Menter Dinefwr (SPF-RIF- 20)	Failed to meet the key aims of the fund with the project mainly benefiting the applicant's core business operation as opposed to piloting innovative service delivery within the community.
Age Cymru Dyfed (SPF RIF 21)	Failed to meet the key aims of the fund with the project focus on the retention of existing services, and hence did not meet the minimum weighted score required to be recommended for approval.

4. REPORTS NOT FOR PUBLICATION

RESOLVED pursuant to The Local Government Act 1972 as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007 that the following items were not for publication as the reports contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

5. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - BUSINESS GROWTH GRANT FUND (INNOVATION)

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 4 above, not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act). The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained detailed information about the business and financial affairs and ambitions of the applicants. In this case, the public interest in maintaining transparency and accountability is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality, as disclosure would be likely to place persons and businesses named in the report at an unfair disadvantage in relation to their commercial competitors.

The Cabinet Member considered a project application received from a business seeking assistance from the Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Growth Grant Fund which enabled businesses to start, sustain, grow and innovate.

RESOLVED that the project submitted to Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Growth Grant Fund as detailed in the report be approved.

6. SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - BUSINESS RENEWABLE ENERGY FUND

Following the application of the public interest test it was **RESOLVED**, pursuant to the Act referred to in minute no. 4 above, not to publicise the content of the report as it contained exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information) (Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act). The public interest test in this matter related to the fact that the report contained detailed information about the business and financial affairs and ambitions of the applicants. In this case, the public interest in maintaining transparency and accountability is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining confidentiality, as disclosure would be likely to place persons and businesses named in the report at an unfair disadvantage in relation to their commercial competitors.

The Cabinet Member considered project applications received from two businesses seeking assistance from the Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Renewable Energy Fund which enabled businesses to undertake renewable energy improvement projects leading to business efficiencies and carbon reduction.

RESOLVED that the projects submitted to Shared Prosperity Fund – Business Renewable Energy Fund as detailed in the report be approved.

CHAIR

DATE